

Description of a new species of Himalayan Mole (Talpa macrura).

By B. H. HODGSON, Esq.

In preparing a set of skins and skulls for despatch to Europe, I find a marked species of Mole which has not been, I think, described, and which differs from the ordinary Himalayan one by being a third smaller, yet having a tail five times as long. The following is its summary description :—

Tip of snout to base of tail 4 inches. Head $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Tail and hair $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch ; tail only, $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch, palma and nails $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, planta and nails $\frac{3}{8}$ inch.

Its colour is deep slaty blue, with canescent gloss, iridescent when wet.

The tail is cylindric and pretty well covered with soft hair, which extends a little beyond its tip. As I called the other *micrura*, so I name this one *macrura*.

Moles are very abundant in the Himalaya, the deep bed of black vegetable mould, everywhere prevailing (so long as its protecting cover of forest and brushwood is not cleared off), affording a plentiful supply of those earth-worms which constitute the Mole's chief food.

The abundance of Moles, therefore, gives a distinct clue to the surface-character of this gigantic system of mountains, or rather to the Indian slope of it, and most especially to the central or normal region.—*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Soc. of Bengal*, No. 2, 1858.

On Euchætes coccineus, a new genus of Birds.

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A.

The single specimen of this bird in M. Verreaux's collection from the Rio Napo is the most interesting novelty which I have met with since I commenced studying the group to which it belongs. Its plumage is precisely that of a *Ramphocelus*, but the structure is quite different, and renders it impossible to place it in that group. The form of the bill is rather that of the true *Tanagra*, and agrees more nearly with that of *Tanagra olivi-cyanea* and *Buthraupis eximia*, but it is shorter, thicker, and more swollen than in the former, though not so much so as in the latter of these birds. The tail is comparatively much shorter than in either of these forms ; and altogether it is, I think, impracticable to arrange it in any other way than as a separate generic division, for which the following characters may suffice :—

Rostrum forte, breve, carinatum, compressum, culmine arcuato, gonyde ascendente, dente finali distincta, commissura paululum sinuata ; vibrissis nullis : alæ longæ, remige prima quartam æquante et a secunda et tertia longissimis paulo superatis : cauda brevis, apice modice rotundata : pedes fortes, sicut in genere Buthraupide : ptilosis coccinea, nigro varia.

EUCHÆTES COCCINEUS, J. Verreaux, MS.

Coccineus : loris, facie et mento cum gutture et collo antico, alis caudaque nigerrimis : rostro et pedibus nigris.

Long. tota 6·5, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·4, rostri a fronte 0·55, a rictu 0·7, tarsi 0·9.

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